

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 EB-11 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /127 W
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R 041356Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0933

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCUSNAVEUR

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06943

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: UK, SP, PFOR, GI

SUBJECT: ANGLO-SPANISH TALKS, MAY 30-31

SUMMARY: ANGLO-SPANISH TALKS IN MADRID, MAY 30-31,
YIELDED NO CHANGE WHATSOEVER IN THE IMPASSE OVER
GIBRALTAR. END SUMMARY

1. ALAN GOODISON, HEAD OF SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DEPT, FCO,
HAS GIVEN US ACCOUNT OF TALKS ON GIBRALTAR HE AND SIR
JOHN KILLICK, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY, FCO, HAD WITH
SPANISH OFFICIALS IN MADRID, MAY 30-31. TALKS, CON-
SISTING OF TWO MORNING SESSIONS ONLY, WERE HELD AT
BRITISH INITIATIVE PURSUANT TO UN "CONSENSUS" OF
DECEMBER 6, 1973, WHICH HAD URGED SPAIN AND UK TO RESUME
DISCUSSIONS ON GIBRALTAR.

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2. HMG SOUGHT TO OBTAIN FROM SPAIN ASSURANCES REGARDING

FLIGHT SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS FOR BIG NEW AIRPORT UNDER CONSTRUCTION NEAR GIBRALTAR. SPANISH REFUSED TO ENTER INTO ANY SUCH DISCUSSIONS ON GROUNDS THAT THIS MIGHT IMPLY SPANISH ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY OVER GIBRALTAR.

3. SPANISH IN TURN PRESSED BRITISH FOR A STATEMENT OF HMG'S INTENTION TO SOLVE THE GIBRALTAR QUESTION ON THE BASIS OF AN ULTIMATE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY TO SPAIN. AS AN INDUCEMENT, THE SPANISH DANGLED OFFERS OF DEFENSE FACILITIES AND PROSPECTS FOR JOINT DEFENSE EFFORTS -- A CARROT THAT GOODISON THOUGHT WAS SINGULARLY UNINTERESTING TO A LABOR GOVERNMENT BENT ON CUTTING DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. SPAIN'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE EC WAS NEVER MENTIONED BY EITHER SIDE DURING THE TALKS.

4. NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON WHETHER OR WHEN TO CONTINUE THESE TALKS, BUT GOODISON PERSONALLY FAVORS ANOTHER ROUND, PERHAPS IN NINE MONTHS OR SO. SO LONG AS PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS REMAIN SLIM, HE BELIEVES IT PREFERABLE TO HAVE TALKS BELOW THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL (LAST PRIOR TALKS HAD BEEN BETWEEN LOPEZ BRAVO AND DOUGLAS HOME IN MAY 1973), SINCE THEY ATTRACT LESS MEDIA ATTENTION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, MILITARY POLICIES, MILITARY BASES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, AIRPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON06943
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740141-0861
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740677/aaaacorj.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <19-Jul-2001 by thigpegh, 3.4.X2>; RELEASED <13 JUN 2002 by golinofr>; APPROVED <13 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANGLO-SPANISH TALKS, MAY 30-31 SUMMARY: ANGLO-SPANISH TALKS IN MADRID, MAY 30-31
TAGS: PFOR, UK, SP, GI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005